

# National Evaluation Of Gamma Globulin

With the primary objective of measuring the effectiveness of gamma globulin in reducing the severity of paralysis in cases of poliomyelitis, a temporary National Gamma Globulin Evaluation Center has been set up within the Communicable Disease Center of the Public Health Service at Atlanta. The national evaluation center is also concerned with evaluating administrative and other phases of the national gamma globulin program. It does not distribute or administer the blood derivative. Dr. Abraham M. Lilienfeld, assistant professor of epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, is director of the national center.

Households where two or more cases of the disease occur are being chosen for special study, and all cases in selected epidemic areas will be investigated. Although it will be impossible to study all expected multiple case households in all States, as large a proportion as possible will be surveyed. Epidemic intelligence service officers, nurse-epidemiologists, and statisticians from the Communicable Disease Center have been assigned to the special studies. The study of multiple case households is already under way on a national basis. Epidemiological investigations in collaboration with State health departments have already been started in Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

An advisory committee of 17 leading poliomyelitis authorities planned the investigation and will report on its progress. The committee is headed by Dr. Alexander D. Langmuir,

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*Based on material prepared by the National Gamma Globulin Evaluation Center, Communicable Disease Center, Public Health Service, Atlanta.*

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chief epidemiologist of the Communicable Disease Center, which is responsible for coordinating the national evaluation. Ten local and State health departments are represented on the committee.

Other members of the committee are Dr. John Chapman, epidemiologist, Los Angeles City Health Department; Dr. Roy F. Feemster, director, division of communicable diseases, Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Dr. D. G. Gill, State health officer, Alabama Department of Public Health; Dr. A. L. Gray, director of preventable disease control, Mississippi State Board of Health; Dr. Morris Greenberg, epidemiologist, New York City Health Department; Dr. Arthur C. Hollister, Jr., chief, bureau of acute communicable disease control, California Department of Public Health; Dr. Robert F. Korn, director, bureau of epidemiology and communicable disease control, New York State Department of Health; Dr. John D. Porterfield, director of health, Ohio Department of Health; Dr. Leonard M. Schuman, deputy director for division of preventive medicine, Illinois Department of Public Health; and Dr. Thomas F. Sellers, State health officer, Georgia Department of Public Health.

Also: Miss Lucy Blair, consultant, professional services, American Physical Therapy Association; Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., professor of epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health; Dr. William McD. Hammon, professor of epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health; Dr. John R. Paul, professor of preventive medicine, Yale University School of Medicine; Dr. Albert B. Sabin, director, Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Cincinnati; and Dr. Jessie Wright, medical director, D. T. Watson School of Psychiatry, Pittsburgh.

Arrangements for a muscle examination by a physical therapist of each case 50 to 70 days following onset of illness have been made with the American Physical Therapy Association, aided by a grant from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The gamma globulin is being made available by the Foundation and by the American Red Cross.

The program is sponsored by the Public Health Service in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, the American Physical Therapy Association, and the D. T. Watson School of Psychiatry, which is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.